(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to wind up Airports Authority of India. AAI was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1.4.95. The Airport Authority Act was amended in 2003 to *inter-alia* provide for definition of "private airports" and exclusion of such airports from the purview of the Act except for Air Traffic Services and Security. AAI will continue to manage airports (except the private airports), civil enclaves and aeronautical stations. It will also provide Air Traffic Services and Security to the private airports.

Autonomy to IA and AI

2112. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of providing functional autonomy and a level playing field to Indian Airlines and Air India with the Aviation Sector showing signs of revival;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the equity of Air India and Indian Airlines to make them more viable;

(c) whether Government are looking at merging the operations of Indian Airlines and Air India in the long term; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to synergise their operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Both Indian Airlines and Air India have functional autonomy to plan their operations to effectively compete with other airlines.

(b) The question of increasing the equity base of these airlines is linked to the aircraft acquisition proposals of the two airlines.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to merge the operations of the two airlines at present.

Air Services from Lucknow Airport

†2113. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.